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The Sun

POLITICALLY, REPUBLICAN.

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EVERY FRIDAY

MAY 12, 1916

FACTS CONCERNING THE LIGHT PLANT

Article Appearing In a Local Paper Contains Many Statements Which Are Not In Accord With Facts.

The article appearing in a last week's local paper in reference to the proposed sale of the Price municipal plant contains many statements which are not in accord with facts. Undoubtedly it was not the intention of the signers of said article to mislead the citizens of Price. However, if an investigation had been made of all the facts in connection with the operation of our plant many of the statements in that article would not have been made.

The city recorder keeps an accurate statement of all expenditures in connection with the said plant. Also all receipts from its operation. These figures are on file in the recorder's office and are subject to examination by any of the citizens of Price.

The city council before determining whether it was advisable to submit the question of sale of the plant to the citizens, had an audit made covering the entire expenditures on the plant and the cost of operating same since its installation in the fall of 1916. After going over this audit and finding that the plant was being operated at a considerable loss and realizing that a considerable amount of money would have to be spent both for repairs and for extensions, which money either would have to be raised by the sale of bonds or by taxation, it was decided that the question of sale should be submitted to the citizens.

The auditor's report referred to has been available for examination by any of the citizens at any time during the last two months and a half. We present with the important figures taken from the city books and shown in the auditor's report.

Up to February 1, 1916, the city had spent in construction work on the electric plant and distribution system \$18,876.82. Depreciation for the five and one-third years during which the plant has been operated, amounts to \$1,226.78, leaving the present book value of the plant at \$28,149.87.

As we all know the plant has been operated at a loss during this period. Consequently we have had to pay out of the taxes each year sufficient money to make up this loss. A total of twenty-five thousand dollars was raised by the sale of bonds on the electric plant. The amount that has been paid by taxation towards construction and operation of the plant is \$2,628.82. The sum in operating the plant during this period amounts to \$19,368.67. This is at the rate of \$2,689.36 per year or \$267.50 per month or ten dollars per day. Figuring this sum the auditors credited against plant operation street lighting at the regular rates charged elsewhere in the state for private companies and the city pumping at the same rates. If we had assumed that we were receiving street lighting and pumping for nothing our total loss instead of being \$2,67.50 per month would be increased to some \$278.38 a month or a total of \$3,217.50 a month or approximately nineteen dollars per day. This does not take into consideration the fact that if a private company had owned the plant that the city would have received taxes from said source, which would have gone a long way towards paying for the street lighting. The actual earnings by years from the city plant have been as follows:

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	Total.
Money received from customers	\$ 2,588.30	\$ 2,511.07	\$ 3,451.95	\$ 3,697.25	\$ 2,249.62	\$ 31,472.57
Value of city street lighting	1,986.80	1,996.80	1,996.80	2,075.76	2,191.56	10,242.56
Value of pump service, waterworks	1,657.12	1,657.12	1,657.12	1,657.12	1,657.12	5,111.39
Totals	\$ 5,232.24	\$ 5,164.89	\$ 6,004.86	\$ 12,369.71	\$ 11,047.24	
The operating expenses have been as follows:						
1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	Total.	
\$ 4,517.35	\$ 8,876.37	\$ 9,916.59	\$ 1,484.42	\$ 3,449.68	\$ 19,876.65	
Interest and depreciation	2,810.46	2,214.25	3,481.22	6,781.05	15,397.22	42,186.90
Totals	\$ 8,327.80	\$ 11,090.62	\$ 13,400.81	\$ 9,432.45	\$ 15,812.81	\$ 63,922.72

Note.—The 1914 operating expenses were low, due to the fact that during that period the property was leased. The earnings were correspondingly low during the same year for the same reason. The 1915 operating expenses were high, due to the fact that \$12,281.52 was spent for boiler and similar repairs during the year. Similar expenditures will have to be made each year hereafter.

Members of the city council went over these figures and reached the conclusion that we were not warranted in recommending that the city continue to operate the plant when outside parties offered to buy the plant at its present value and furnish electricity to the citizens of Price at a less figure than the present cost.

We feel that the citizens of Price should look at this matter as a business proposition and not allow political influence to affect their decision in the matter. If the citizens are willing to be taxed ten dollars a day to make up the losses on the operation of the plant, the city council will be only too willing to follow their instructions and continue to operate the plant at the above cost. On the other hand, we believe that it is advisable for the citizens to save this money and to dispose of the plant at a time when there is an opportunity to receive a good price for same.

In the article referred to the statement is made that the property if properly operated can pay interest on four times its present value. With total revenues of only \$22,900 per year, plus city service amounting to \$2,290.00 per year, and with operating expenses amounting to better than \$10,000.00 per year and depreciation and interest to more than \$10,000.00 per year, how can a saving of \$200.00 per month referred to in the statement pay interest on four times the present value of the property?

Again in reference to franchises. Under the state laws no exclusive franchise can be granted, consequently the city of Price can engage in the electric light business at any time in the future that it so desires, or grant a franchise to a competing company at any time.

The signers of the statement referred to also lost sight of the fact that if the property had been leased at a hundred dollars per month the city would still have had to pay interest on the bonds and would have had to take care of the sinking fund provisions of the bonds. Also depreciation on the plant.

In reference to the question of the bid of seven hundred dollars covering operation of the plant, the party making the bid said that he would not furnish a bond and the city council did not think it advisable to turn over to him some thirty thousand dollars worth of city property with no assurance that the city would be protected in case of poor handling of said property.

We are of the opinion that the question of an electric railroad to Emery county has no connection with the sale of the electric plant. We stand just now in reference to sealed bids. Consequently we have not felt it advisable to receive a definite offer for the property at this time. Knowing that we cannot sell the property for less than the outstanding bonds nor for less than the appraised value. We have appointed three of the good business men of this city to appraise the property. We have been informed by the Utah Power



and Light company that they would make a bid for the property if the citizens decided to sell. They have also assured us that the rates for electric service would be more favorable and lower than those now charged the citizens of Price. They advise us that they will make extensions and install transformers for electric ranges and similar service without requiring the customer to pay for said extensions. They also assure us that they require no meter deposits from property owners and smaller deposits than now asked from non-property owners. They state that the reason they can do this is the fact that they are generating current in hydro-electric plants in large quantities and consequently will be able to operate the plant cheaper than the city has been operating.

We understand that they will maintain a good office here and will handle all of the Emery county business, as well as the local business, from this office, with a result that they will spend considerable sums of money in this city each year. Furthermore they will bring in a large line and connect with the city lines, so that at any time that factories or other large power users desire to locate at Price electric service will be available at the same cheap power rates that exist in other parts of Utah. Again, they have in their employ a large corps of specialists well informed in reference to all facets of electric service, who will be available for helping the citizens of Price in reference to the possible uses of electricity without cost to us. Again, if a private company owns the electric plant we will be able to collect a considerable sum of money each year in taxes from said plant. Consequently we are of the opinion that it will be advisable to sell the property and we can assure the citizens of Price that the city council will make the best possible terms at the time bids are opened and before agreeing to sell the plant.

Yours for the best interests of Price,

A. W. HOMSLY, Mayor.

MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAM.

Mother's Day will be observed at the Methodist church next Sunday morning by the reading of the following program, at 11 o'clock.

Instrumental solo, Nocturne—Miss Adah Newhouse.

Vocal solo, "In Life's Garden"—Miss Jessie Ballinger.

Instrumental solo, "A Perfect Day"—Miss Adah Newhouse.

Song, "Mother" and "She's Good Enough to Be Your Baby's Mother"—Miss Clara Hanson.

Brief sermon, "What Jesus Christ Did For Motherhood"—Rev. Oscar H. Smith.

At 8 o'clock in the evening there will be a laymen's gospel service. Representative citizens will give three to five minute talks on five topics such as "The Christian Mother," "That Nuisance," and "The Everlasting Kiss," after which this musical program will be rendered by some of the best male voices in Price.

Duet—The Song My Mother Used to Sing.

Male Quartet—School Life Palling.

Male Quartet—Oh, Home Beloved, Wherever I Wander.

Male quartet—"Meditation."

THE KANSAS CITY STOCK MARKETS

BEEF STEERS SLIGHTLY LOWER FOR OPENING WEEK.

Indications point to Heavy Steers Getting Into the Specialty Class At An Earlier Date Than Usual This Year—The Sheep and Lamb Market Held Up Very Strong.

The Bull Special Service.

KANBAN CITY, Mo., May 8.—Beef steers finished last week slightly lower than the opening of the week, though showing some strength Wednesday and thereafter. Butcher stuff closed a shade lower, and stockers and feeders sold a quarter lower the last days of the week. Receipts today are eleven thousand cattle, market generally ten cents lower, except that good killing yearlings are steady and stockers and feeders are as good as the close last week. Some mixed yearlings brought the top, \$2.45, and culled Colorado steers, 1,100 to 1,400 pounds, sold at \$1.75 to \$1.70, including a string of eleven loads from the sugar company at Scotts Bluff, 1,400 pounds, at \$1.75, not as good by ten cents as steers from same people last Monday at \$1.75. Some short yearlings from the Panhandle brought \$1.60. Heavy quadrupines sold at \$1.20 last week. Chicago overran its estimate on cattle today, but the liberal supplies around the market circle today are regarded as a temporary condition, and expectation for tomorrow is for a light run and stronger prices. Indications point to Heavy steers getting into the specialty class at an earlier date than usual this year. Last year no special advance was made on finished heavy steers July.

Receipts of sheep, lambs and goats today were twelve thousand head, of which three thousand were goats. Lambs and sheep sold strong, goats even cents higher. Top Colorado fed lambs \$1.50, some 52 pound lambs \$1.25, very strong price. Arizona spring lambs, sixty one pounds, \$1.25. Arizona clipped ewes, 110 pounds, \$1.80, a record price. Texas killing goats \$2.60 to 16.00, Angora breeders \$5.25 to 15.50. Spanish breeders \$4.00 to \$4.50. A liberal crew of goats will arrive all through this week.

Lambs and Wool Moving.

Wool shipments on the Oregon Short Line, Salt Lake Route and the Denver and Rio Grande have increased the past week and it is thought the greater part of the wool in Utah and Idaho will be moved to the Eastern markets before the end of May. The Idaho clipping season is in full blast and branch lines of the Oregon Short Line are sending many cars of wool out daily. Lamb shipments from Idaho where more than sixty-five thousand head have been contracted, to the South Omaha yards are growing larger daily and the number of stock trains on the road is increasing. It is not thought the greater part of the lambs will be shipped to the Eastern markets before the middle of June.

Bar Cross People Sell.

The largest cattle deal made in San Juan county for several years was closed a few days ago when the Bar Cross outfit sold out to the Joneses and Daltons. J. M. Redd and L. H. Redd, the former owners of these cattle, sold all cattle owned by the company together with range and forest rights. Mr. Bailey sold his interest to the Jones boys and Redd sold to the Daltons. Just how many cattle were run by the Bar Cross outfit would be hard to estimate, but the county records showed the assessed number to be about twelve hundred head. Both companies purchasing these stock were already heavy cattle owners and with the addition of this brand they will be among the big cattle outfits of Southeastern Utah. Bailey and Redd have other extensive cattle interests. It is understood that the Bar Cross cattle brought an especially good price.

HOW A SUNNYSIDE FAN SAW LAST SUNDAY'S GAME

RUMNTSIDE, May 8.—The biggest crowd that ever witnessed a baseball game on the local ground was present last Sunday when the home team met and defeated Castle Gate. What amused the crowd most and greatest on the nerves of the Castle Gate boys was the strenuous rooting of the Sunnyside bullies who occupied a good portion of the grand stand. The ladies proved themselves to be red hot fans. The majority of Sunnyside's rooters had great confidence in the playing ability of their team and were sure they were going to avenge their defeat of April 23d.

Every time Burns, Sunnyside's first baseman came to the bat the Castle Gate band played "Silver Threads Among the Gold." He played a great game, however. In the seventh inning, when Sunnyside made seven runs, the band changed their tune.

The fact that the visitors brought their band with them was much appreciated by the local people and they played excellently.

APPRAISERS REPORT ON LIGHT PLANT.

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council, Price, Utah:

Gentlemen—We the appraisers appointed by your honorable body to appraise the electric light plant now owned by the city of Price, have the honor of submitting to you the following report, showing what we consider the present value of the city's electric light plant, after due allowance for depreciation. We have not included in this appraisement the city water pipe thawing machine, but have included the motors installed by the city and paid for by the consumers. This money as we understand it to be returned by the city to consumers to the amount each one paid for his meter.

PRICE MUNICIPAL PLANT.

	Total Cost	Depreciated Value
Power house building and lot	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Bolters—		
One 150 horsepower	3,000.00	1,500.00
One 125 horsepower	2,500.00	1,100.00
Foundation and steam engines, 150 K. V. A.	5,000.00	3,500.00
Foundation and steam turbines, 187 K. V. A.	5,000.00	5,000.00
Fred water heater, pipe and fittings	700.00	600.00
Two 4x4 feed pumps	400.00	150.00
Switchboards and installation	250.00	150.00
Painted—painted, not painted, native and small	1,875.00	1,125.00
Complete, pipes, cranes and insulators	165.00	100.00
Hardware	125.40	112.00
Copper wire	2,405.00	2,400.00
In place No. 8018, 182 pounds galvanized wire	25.00	25.00
Copper wire No. 7340	2,382.00	2,300.00
Two hundred feet customer service	125.00	125.00
Transformers		
Five 1½ K. W.	125.00	125.00
Two 2 K. W.	100.00	100.00
Six 2 K. W.	420.00	450.00
Seventeen 1 K. W.	1,325.00	1,325.00
One 4 K. W.	100.00	100.00
Eight 10 K. W.	1,200.00	1,200.00
One 25 K. W.	200.00	200.00
Street light transformer	400.00	300.00
Switchboard and 250 meters	2,550.00	2,000.00
Choke coils and arresters	125.00	125.00
Street lights and brackets	500.00	342.00

\$42,149.40

\$11,029.00

Very respectfully yours,

J. M. WHITMORE,
ALBERT BRYNEH,
C. H. STEVENSON.

Appraisers.

the best service possible and receive at all times courteous treatment.

Heavy baggage will be handled at very reasonable rates and as an instance the price quoted on such baggage is one cent per pound from Price to Myton. The attention of the Price merchants and others is drawn to